

# **“DRAFT”**

## **Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI)**

### **Engineering Improvement and Realignment Environmental Assessment**

Swiftwater Field Office, Roseburg District  
EA# OR-104-07-05

The proposed road improvement and realignment projects would occur on three locations on two Bureau of Land Management administered roads, Hubbard Creek Road (26-7-19.1) and the Long Ranch ERFO sites (26-3-20.3), in the Upper Umpqua Fifth-Field Watershed in Sections 19 and 21; T26S, R07W; W.M.

This project is within the General Forest Management Area and Riparian Reserve Land Use Allocations and would repair and or improve BLM administered roads and contribute to the Roseburg District’s access for meeting the districts allowable sale quantity of 45 million board feet declared in the Roseburg District *Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (ROD/RMP, p. 8).

#### **Test for Significant Impacts.**

1. Has significant impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (1))?

( ) Yes                      (✓) No

**Remarks:** Any impacts would be consistent with the range and scope of those effects analyzed and described in the Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/EIS).

2. Has significant adverse impacts on public health or safety (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (2))?

( ) Yes                      (✓) No

**Remarks:** The increase in fuel loadings is less than 10 tons per acre. (EA, pgs. 18-19):

- fuels along the roadside would be cleared, small fuels would be scattered, and large accumulations burned in piles,
- the scattered slash would suppress underbrush which could increase risk;
- most of the fine fuels, less than 1 inch diameter, would degrade within two years after the project which would dramatically decrease the risk of a fire building in intensity to consume larger diameter fuels.

Treatment of logging slash by prescribed fire has the potential to affect air quality locally. Burning would be accomplished under guidelines

established by the Oregon Smoke Management Plan and Visibility Protection Plan to avoid adverse effects. Any impacts to local air quality would be localized and of short duration, consistent with the range and scope of those effects analyzed and described in the Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/EIS, pp. 4-9 to 4-12).

3. Adversely effects such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains or ecologically significant or critical areas including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (3))?

☐ Yes ☒ No

**Remarks:** Unique geographic characteristics (such as those listed above) are absent from the project area and would not be affected.

4. Has highly controversial effects on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (4))?

☐ Yes ☒ No

**Remarks:** After contacting adjacent landowners, no comments were received (EA, pg. 40-42).

5. Has highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks to the human environment (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (5))?

☐ Yes ☒ No

**Remarks:** The risks to the human environment from the proposed project were analyzed and found not to be highly uncertain or unique (EA, pg. 12, 42).

6. Establishes a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (6))?

☐ Yes ☒ No

**Remarks:** The contract for road repair and realignment and the negotiation for sale of small amounts of trees are a well-established practices and would not establish precedent for future actions.

7. Is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (7))?

☐ Yes ☒ No

**Remarks:** The cumulative impacts to forest vegetation (pg. 14), wildlife (pgs. 18), fire and fuels management (pgs. 19), soils (pg. 22), hydrology (pgs. 25), fish populations and habitat (pg. 26) were analyzed in the Engineering Improvement and Realignment EA.

8. Has adverse effects on districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (8))?

☐ Yes ☒ No

**Remarks:** The BLM conducted surveys for cultural resources and completed Section 106 responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act, in accordance with the 1998 Oregon State Historic Preservation Office protocols (EA, pgs. 11, 40). No cultural resources were discovered (EA, pg. 31). It has been determined that there would be no effect to scientific, cultural, or historical resources (EA, pg. 40).

9. May adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (9))?

|                   |                           |                                     |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Botanical Species | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No |
| Fish Species      | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No |
| Wildlife Species  | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No |

**Remarks:** Surveys did not identify the presence of any federally threatened or endangered botanical species; therefore the proposed action would have no effect on listed botanical species (EA, pgs. 28).

There are currently no listed, or proposed for listing fish species in the Roseburg District (EA, pgs. 31, 42). There is Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for Coho salmon or Chinook salmon approximately 250 feet downslope of the Hubbard Creek road project and 400 feet downslope of the Long Ranch road project (EA, pg. 27). However, the road improvement project would result in an overall decrease in the amount of sediment delivered to fish bearing streams (EA, pgs. 28). Therefore, there are no further consultation obligations with the National Marine Fisheries Service (EA, pg. 42).

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been completed for the federally threatened bald eagle, northern spotted owl, and marbled murrelet and for spotted owl critical habitat and murrelet critical habitat (EA, pg. 42).

A Letter of Concurrence was received from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (*Reinitiation of consultation on Roseburg District Bureau of Land Management FY 2005-2008 Management Activities* [Ref. # 1-15-05-I-0511]) dated June 24, 2005 which concurred with the Roseburg District's conclusion that the proposed road realignment and decommission activities are *not likely to adversely affect* Northern spotted owls or marbled murrelets as a result of disturbance (pgs. 23-25, 14-15).

Project design features (EA, pgs. 8-11) would be implemented in compliance with the letters of concurrence.

10. Threatens to violate Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (10))?

( ) Yes                      (✓) No

**Remarks:** The measures described above insure that the Engineering Improvement and Realignment projects would be consistent with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws. The impacts of the road repairs and realignment would not exceed those anticipated by the Roseburg District PRMP/EIS.

Pursuant to Executive Order 13212, the BLM must consider the effects of this decision on the President's National Energy Policy. Within the project area, there are no known energy resources with commercial potential. There are no pipelines, electrical transmission lines, or energy producing or processing facilities. As a consequence, there would be no known adverse effect on National Energy Policy.

Based on the analysis of potential impacts contained in the environmental assessment, I have determined that the Engineering Improvement and Realignment projects would not have a significant impact on the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and that an environmental impact statement is not required. I have determined that the repairs and realignment would be within those anticipated and already analyzed in the *Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* (PRMP/EIS, 1994) and would be in conformance with the *Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (ROD/RMP) for the Roseburg District, approved by the Oregon/Washington State Director on June 2, 1995.

---

Marci L. Todd, Field Manager  
Swiftwater Field Office

---

Date